

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for allowing a porthole engine to deliver unrequested content to users that access requested content through the porthole engine, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving, from a browser executing on a client, an initial request for requested content;
wherein said initial request is received at said porthole engine;
wherein said client is connected to a network through said porthole engine;
wherein said requested content resides on an origin server located separate from said porthole engine on said network; and
~~before the requested content is requested from the origin server,~~ said porthole engine responding to said initial request by sending, to said client, data generated by the porthole engine;
wherein, when said porthole engine responds to said initial request, said porthole engine has not yet obtained any copy of said requested content from said origin server;
wherein the data causes the client to request said requested content; and
wherein the data causes said requested content and said unrequested content to appear on a display screen of said client.
2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the requested content includes a web page, and wherein the portal-porthole engine causes the web page content of said

~~requested content to be modified to encapsulate said requested content within a paneled frame.~~

3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[3]]1 wherein ~~the space reserved in the web page is selected from a group consisting of: said porthole engine responding to said initial request comprises:~~
~~said porthole engine sending said data to said client before said requested content is ever requested from the origin server due to any request by said client.~~
~~the top of the web page;~~
~~the bottom of the web page; and~~
~~a combination of the top of the web page and the bottom of the web page.~~
- 5-6. (canceled)
7. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
said requested content appears on a first portion of a content display region of said browser; and
said unrequested content appears on a second portion of said content display region of said browser.
8. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:
said requested content appears on a first display window of said client; and
said unrequested content appears on a second display window of said client.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said porthole engine determines the format in which to display said requested content and said unrequested content based on one or more factors including at least one of differences in browsers, components of requested web pages, and versions of the browsers.
10. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of sending data to said client includes the step of:
sending frame data to said client;
wherein said frame data defines a plurality of frames;
wherein said plurality of frames includes a first frame and one or more other frames;
wherein said frame data further specifies that said requested content is to be displayed in said first frame, and that said unrequested content is to be displayed in said one or more other frames.
11. (original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:
the porthole engine receiving a series of subsequent requests from the browser in response to the browser decoding said frame data, said series of subsequent requests including a second request for said requested content; and
the porthole engine responding to said second request for said requested content by requesting said requested content from said origin server and delivering said requested content to said browser.

12. (original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said porthole engine determines that said second request for said requested content is not an initial request for said requested content by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request.
13. (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein:
said porthole engine determines that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request; and
the step of sending frame data is performed in response to determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.
14. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of sending data to said client includes the step of rewriting a link in an embedded frame document to affect frame behavior.
15. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of rewriting a link includes the step of changing a target attribute of the link.
16. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

said porthole engine determines that said initial request is not a request for an
 embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with
 said initial request and with said second request; and
 said porthole engine sends data that causes said unrequested content to appear on a
 portion of said content display region of said browser in response to
 determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.

17. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of using information about a particular user to tailor the unrequested content to that particular user.
18. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the information about the particular user is selected from a group consisting of:
 information available to owners of the porthole engine;
 information about the requested content; and
 a combination of the information available to the owners of the porthole engine and
 the information about the requested content.
19. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of identifying the users to personalize the unrequested content.
20. (original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the step of identifying the users is performed by a method selected in a group consisting of:
 attaching cookies to web pages that are browsed by a particular user;

observing the radius authentication transactions and the resulting network address assigned to the client; tracking network addresses assigned to the users; and authenticating the users.

21. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the requested content includes a web page form, and the unrequested content includes information that automatically fills in one or more fields of said web page form.
22. (original) The method of Claim 21 including the step of automatically filling in said one or more fields of said web page form upon determining that a web page being delivered through said porthole engine is associated with said web page form and is registered in the porthole engine as fillable.
23. (original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the information that automatically fills in one or more fields of said web page form is provided by a database coupled to the porthole engine.
24. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the porthole engine restricts access to particular web pages by using content filtering technology based on identities of the users.
25. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions for allowing a porthole engine to deliver unrequested content to users that access requested content

through the porthole engine, the computer-readable medium comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving, from a browser executing on a client, an initial request for requested content;

wherein said initial request is received at said porthole engine;

wherein said client is connected to a network through said porthole engine;

wherein said requested content resides on an origin server located separate from said porthole engine on said network; and

~~before the requested content is requested from the origin server, said porthole engine responding to said initial request by sending, to said client, data generated by the porthole engine;~~

wherein, when said porthole engine responds to said initial request, said porthole engine has not yet obtained any copy of said requested content from said origin server;

wherein the data causes the client to request said requested content; and

wherein the data causes said requested content and said unrequested content to appear on a display screen of said client.

26. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the requested content includes a web page, and wherein the portal-porthole engine causes the web page content of said requested content to be modified to encapsulated said requested content within a paneled frame..

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim [[27]]~~25 the space reserved in the web page is selected from a group consisting of: said porthole engine responding to said initial request comprises:~~

said porthole engine sending said data to said client before said requested content is

ever requested from the origin server due to any request by said client.

~~the top of the web page;~~

~~the bottom of the web page; and~~

~~a combination of the top of the web page and the bottom of the web page.~~

29-30. (canceled)

31. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein:

 said requested content appears on a first portion of a content display region of said browser; and

 said unrequested content appears on a second portion of said content display region of said browser.

32. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein:

 said requested content appears on a first display window of said client; and

 said unrequested content appears on a second display window of said client.

33. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said porthole engine

 determines the format in which to display said requested content and said unrequested

content based on one or more factors including at least one of differences in browsers, components of requested web pages, and versions of the browsers.

34. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the step of sending data to said client includes the step of:
sending frame data to said client;
wherein said frame data defines a plurality of frames;
wherein said plurality of frames includes a first frame and one or more other frames;
wherein said frame data further specifies that said requested content is to be displayed in said first frame, and that said unrequested content is to be displayed in said one or more other frames.
35. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 34 further comprising instructions for performing the steps of:
the porthole engine receiving a series of subsequent requests from the browser in response to the browser decoding said frame data, said series of subsequent requests including a second request for said requested content; and
the porthole engine responding to said second request for said requested content by requesting said requested content from said origin server and delivering said requested content to said browser.
36. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 35 wherein said porthole engine determines that said second request for said requested content is not an initial request

for said requested content by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request.

37. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 34 wherein:

 said porthole engine determines that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request; and

 the step of sending frame data is performed in response to determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.
38. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the step of sending data to said client includes the step of rewriting a link in an embedded frame document to affect frame behavior.
39. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 38 wherein the step of rewriting a link includes the step of changing a target attribute of the link.
40. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein:

 said porthole engine determines that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request; and

 said porthole engine sends data that causes said unrequested content to appear on a portion of said content display region of said browser in response to determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.

41. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 further comprising instructions for performing the step of using information about a particular user to tailor the unrequested content to that particular user.
42. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 41 wherein the information about the particular user is selected from a group consisting of:
 - information available to owners of the porthole engine;
 - information about the requested content; and
 - a combination of the information available to the owners of the porthole engine and the information about the requested content.
43. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 further comprising instructions for performing the step of identifying the users to personalize the unrequested content.
44. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 43 wherein the step of identifying the users is performed by a method selected in a group consisting of:
 - attaching cookies to web pages that are browsed by a particular user;
 - observing the radius authentication transactions and the resulting network address assigned to the client;
 - tracking network addresses assigned to the users; and
 - authenticating the users.

45. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the requested content includes a web page form, and the unrequested content includes information that automatically fills in one or more fields of said web page form.
46. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 45 including instructions for performing the step of automatically filling in said one or more fields of said web page form upon determining that a web page being delivered through said porthole engine is associated with said web page form and is registered in the porthole engine as fillable.
47. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 45 wherein the information that automatically fills in one or more fields of said web page form is provided by a database coupled to the porthole engine.
48. (original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein the porthole engine restricts access to particular web pages by using content filtering technology based on identities of the users.
49. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
 - a client;
 - at least one origin server; and
 - a porthole engine;wherein said porthole engine is operatively coupled between the client and the at least one origin server through a network;

wherein said porthole engine is configured to deliver unrequested content to users of said client that access requested content that resides at said at least one origin server through said porthole engine; and

wherein upon a user using said client to initiate an initial request for said requested content through said porthole engine:

said client is configured to receive, from a browser executing on said client, said initial request; and

said porthole engine is configured

to receive said initial request from said browser, and

to respond to said initial request, ~~before the requested content is requested from the origin server~~, by sending to said client data generated by the porthole engine, wherein, when said porthole engine responds to said initial request, said porthole engine has not yet obtained any copy of said requested content from said origin server, wherein the data causes the client to request said requested content, and wherein the data causes said requested content and said unrequested content to appear on a display screen of said client.

50. (currently amended) The system of Claim 49 wherein the requested content includes a web page, and wherein the portal-porthole engine causes the web page content of said requested content to be modified to encapsulate said requested content within a paneled frame.

51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) The system of Claim [[51]] 49 wherein ~~the space reserved in the web page is selected from a group consisting of: said porthole engine responding to said initial request comprises:~~
~~said porthole engine sending said data to said client before said requested content is ever requested from the origin server due to any request by said client.~~
~~the top of the web page;~~
~~the bottom of the web page; and~~
~~a combination of the top of the web page and the bottom of the web page.~~

53-54. (canceled)

55. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein:
said requested content appears on a first portion of a content display region of said browser; and
said unrequested content appears on a second portion of said content display region of said browser.

56. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein:
said requested content appears on a first display window of said client; and
said unrequested content appears on a second display window of said client.

57. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to determine the format in which to display said requested content and said

unrequested content based on one or more factors including at least one of differences in browsers, components of requested web pages, and versions of the browsers.

58. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to send data to said client by:
 - sending frame data to said client;
 - wherein said frame data defines a plurality of frames;
 - wherein said plurality of frames includes a first frame and one or more other frames;
 - wherein said frame data further specifies that said requested content is to be displayed in said first frame, and that said unrequested content is to be displayed in said one or more other frames.
59. (original) The system of Claim 58 wherein the porthole engine is further configured:
 - to receive a series of subsequent requests from the browser in response to the browser decoding said frame data, said series of subsequent requests including a second request for said requested content; and
 - to respond to said second request for said requested content by requesting said requested content from said at least one origin server and delivering said requested content to said browser.
60. (original) The system of Claim 59 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to determine that said second request for said requested content is not an initial request for said requested content by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request.

61. (original) The system of Claim 58 wherein:

 said porthole engine is further configured to determine that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request; and
 said porthole engine sending frame data is performed in response to determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.
62. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured:

 to determine that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item by using information contained in the URL associated with said initial request and with said second request; and
 to send data that causes said unrequested content to appear on a portion of said content display region of said browser in response to determining that said initial request is not a request for an embedded item.
63. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to send data to said client to rewrite a link in an embedded frame document to affect frame behavior.
64. (original) The system of Claim 63 wherein rewriting a link includes changing a target attribute of the link.

65. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to use information about a particular user to tailor the unrequested content to that particular user.
66. (original) The system of Claim 65 wherein the information about the particular user is selected from a group consisting of:
 - information available to owners of the porthole engine;
 - information about the requested content; and
 - a combination of the information available to the owners of the porthole engine and the information about the requested content.
67. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein said porthole engine is further configured to identify the users to personalize the unrequested content.
68. (original) The system of Claim 67 wherein said porthole engine is configured to identify the users by a method selected from a group consisting of:
 - attaching cookies to web pages that are browsed by a particular user;
 - observing the radius authentication transactions and the resulting network address assigned to the client;
 - tracking network addresses assigned to the users; and
 - authenticating the users.

69. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein the requested content includes a web page form, and the unrequested content includes information that automatically fills one or more fields of said web page form.
70. (original) The system of Claim 69 wherein the porthole engine is further configured to automatically fill in said one or more fields of said web page form upon determining that a web page being delivered through the porthole engine is associated with said web page form and is registered in the porthole engine as fillable.
71. (original) The system of Claim 69 wherein the information that automatically fills in one or more fields of said web page is provided by a database coupled to the porthole engine.
72. (original) The system of Claim 49 wherein the porthole engine is further configured to restrict access to particular web pages by using content filtering technology based on identities of the users.